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[10537/96]

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP ART UNIT 3676

AF
3600
Request for Reconsideration
#11
178
3/13/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Alfons GAIL et al.
Serial No. : 09/832,637
Filed : April 11, 2001
For : BRUSH SEAL
Examiner : John Beres
Art Unit : 3676

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Date: March 3, 2003
Signature: CLJW

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action of January 2, 2003, kindly enter the following remarks:

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1 to 14 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

II. Rejection of Claims 1 to 5, 7, 10, 11 and 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 to 5, 7, 10, 11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over International Published Patent Application No. WO 98/53229 ("Werner et al.") and U.S. Patent No. 5,066,025 ("Hanrahan").